

REMARKSAmendments

In the claims, claim 24 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of claim 23. The Examiner has indicated that such a claim is allowable. The claim dependency of claims 26 to 30 has been amended so that these claims are now dependent on claim 24. Claims 16 to 23 and 31 to 34 have been canceled. This has been done in the interest of rapid prosecution, and without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute claims of similar or different scope to the unamended claims in one or more continuation applications.

The Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 16-18, 21, 23, 28, 29, and 34 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kambara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,091,406) in view of Citron (U.S. Patent No. 4,926,010), insofar as the rejection is applicable to the amended claims. Applicants believe that the cancellation of claims 16-18, 21, 23, and 34, and the dependency of claims 28 and 29 on an allowable claim render this rejection moot.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 19, 20, 22, 26, 27, and 30-33 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kambara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,091,406) in view of Citron (U.S. Patent No. 4,926,010) and further in view of Grunwald et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,009,708), insofar as the rejection is applicable to the amended claims. Applicants believe that the cancellation of claims 19, 20, 22, and 31-33, and the dependency of claims 26, 27, and 30 on an allowable claim render this rejection moot.

Disclosure Under 37 CFR § 1.56

In fulfilling the duty of candor and good faith, the following documents are hereby disclosed to the Patent Office in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56. It is not admitted that the information in the listed documents is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b). The Examiner is requested to consider the documents in the examination of this application.

Accompanying this statement is a Form PTO-1449 in duplicate on which the documents are listed. The Examiner is requested to return an initialed and signed copy of the form once the documents have been considered.

The following documents, not previously cited, have been cited during the prosecution of U.S. Application No. 10/019,190, filed March 13, 2002, which is related to the present application. Application No. 10/019,190 is currently being examined in Art Unit 2629.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant
US-4,645,870	02-24-1987	Adler
US-4,700,176	10-13-1987	Adler
US-5,374,908	12-20-1994	Wright
US-5,573,077	11-12-1996	Knowles
US-5,856,820	01-05-1999	Weigers et al.
US-6,087,599	07-11-2000	Knowles
US-6,186,005	02-13-2001	Leidl

Copies of Documents

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2), copies of these U.S. patents listed above are not being submitted, although copies will be sent on request.

Fee

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(c)(2), the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee for submitting this Information Disclosure Statement (\$180) to Deposit Account No. 18-0560.

Conclusion

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action at an early date is earnestly requested. If, however, there are any outstanding issues which can be usefully discussed by telephone, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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